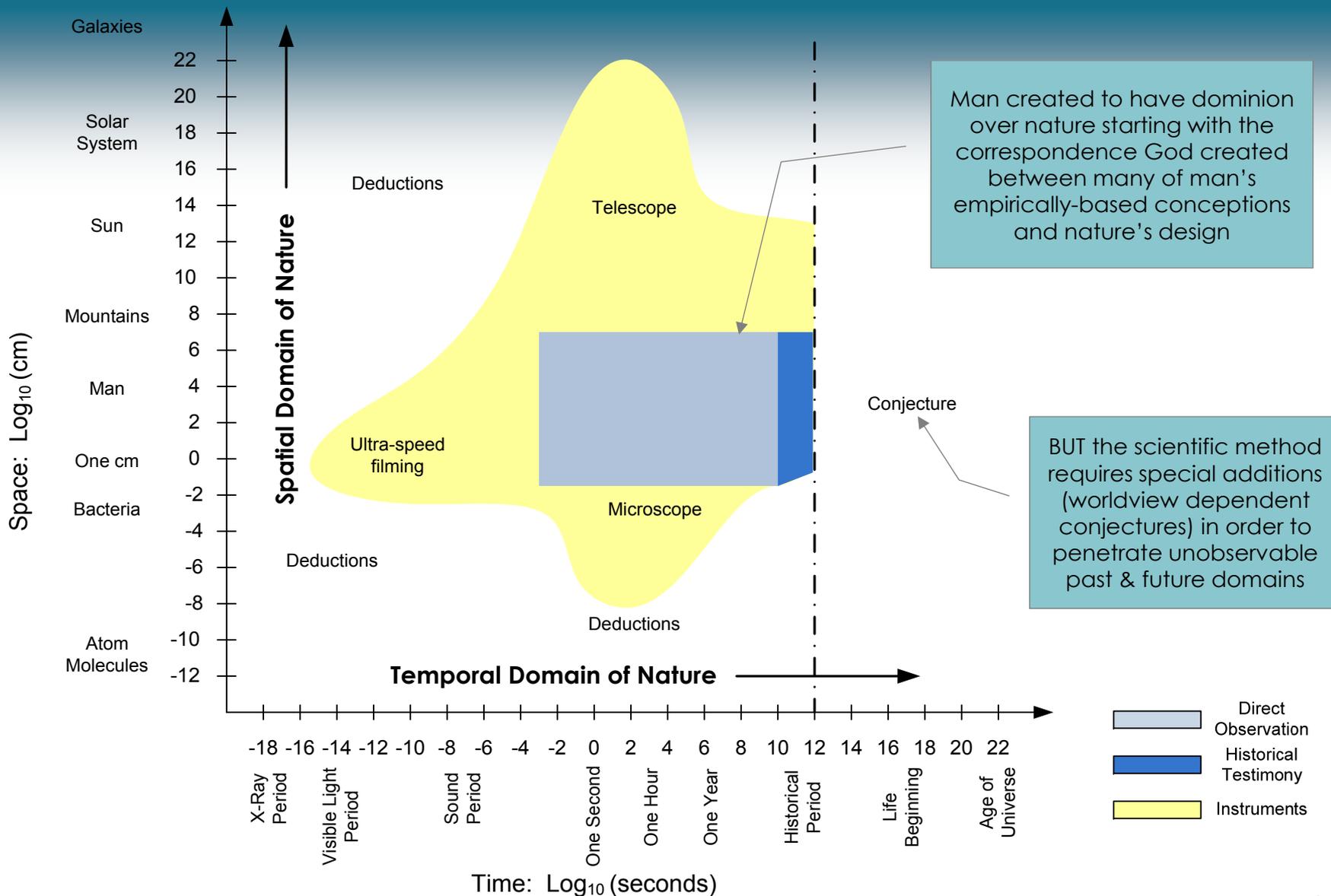


What is the Age
of the Earth?

Beth Haven Creation Conference

May 13, 2017

Limits of empirical knowledge



What methods can science use to study history?

“Evolutionary biology, in contrast with physics and chemistry, is a historical science: ... *Laws and experiments are inappropriate* ... Instead one constructs a historical narrative, consisting of a tentative reconstruction of the particular scenario that led to the events one is trying to explain.” [Emphasis supplied]

Scientific American Vol 283 (2000) 80



Ernest Mayr (1904–2005)

What methods can science use to study history?

“Our theory of evolution has become . . . one which cannot be refuted by any possible observation. . . . Ideas, either without basis or based on a few laboratory experiments carried out in extremely simplified systems, have attained certainty far beyond their validity. They have become part of an evolutionary dogma accepted by most of us as part of our training.”

Birch, L.C, and Ehrlich, P.R., “Evolutionary History and Population Biology,”
Nature Vol 214 (1967) 349–352.

Shall I bow to my Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

The fictional “war between science and religion”

“The idea of a war between science and religion is a relatively recent invention . . . In late 19th century England, several small groups of scientists and scholars organized under the leadership of Thomas H. Huxley to overthrow the cultural dominance of Christianity. . . . Their goal was to replace the Christian worldview with scientific naturalism. . . . They understood very well that they were replacing one religion by another, for they described their goal as the establishment of the ‘church scientific.’ Huxley even referred to his scientific lectures as ‘lay sermons.’”

Nancy Pearcey & Charles Thaxton, *The Soul of Science* (Crossway Books, 1994), 19

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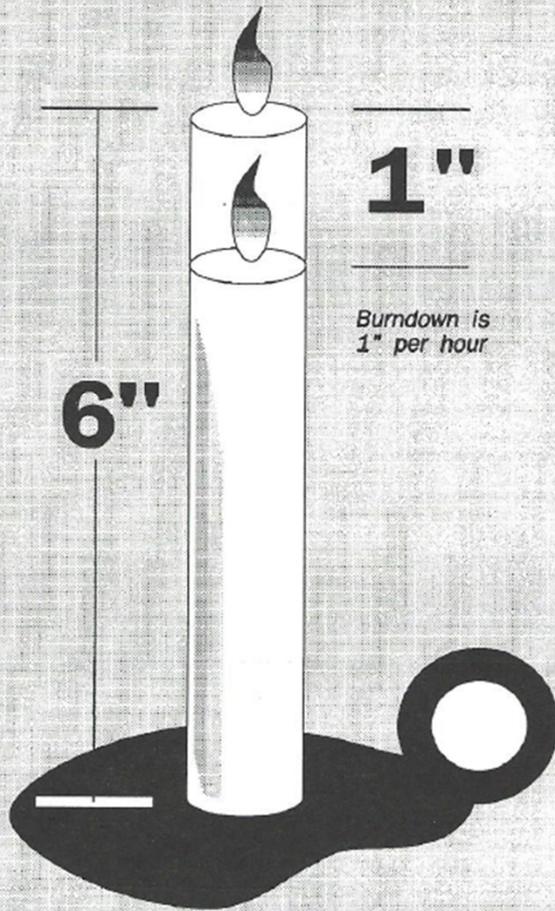
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A candle "clock"

THE BURNING CANDLE

When was the candle lit?



Starting length (in)	Burn rate (in/hr)	Burn duration (hr)	Measured length now (in)
L_e	$[L/t]$	T	L_m

$$L_e - [L/t] * T = L_m$$

Solving for burn duration . . .

$$\frac{[L_e - L_m]}{[L/t]} = T$$

A radioisotope “clock”

$$-\frac{dN}{dt} = RN$$

Initial condition
&
rate of
change/decay

$$L_o - [L/t] * T = L_m$$

$$\frac{1}{R} \ln \frac{N_o}{N_p} = T$$

Solving equation
for “age”

$$\frac{[L_o - L_m]}{[L/t]} = T$$

Vernon P. Cupps, “Clocks in Rocks” (*Acts & Facts*, October 2014), 10

Discordant dates from radioactive “clocks”

- 1. New Zealand, Mt. Ngauruhoe, eruption 1954 (60 yrs ago at dating which gave dates from 270,000 years (K-Ar), 133 million years (Rb-Sr), 200 million years (Sm-Samarium—Nd-Neodymium), 3.9 billion years (Pb-Pb)**
- 2. East African Rift Valleys lava from Pliocene (supposedly < 5 million years old) which gave a Rb-Sr isochron age of 773 million years**
- 3. Igneous rocks on rim of Grand Canyon give dates the same or older than the igneous rocks at the bottom.**

Discordant dates from radioactive Carbon-14 "clocks"

Cosmic ray protons penetrate Earth's magnetic field to turn N-14 into C-14

C-14 become CO₂ which plant life absorb in same ratio of C-12/C-14 as surrounding atmosphere

Plant dies isolating C-14 from surrounding atmosphere so it decays with half-life of 5730 years.

Why is it found in ALL rock strata, even in diamonds, that are millions of years old?

$$L_e - [L/t] * T = L_m$$

$$\frac{[L_e - L_m]}{[L/t]}$$

Conjectures can create many scientific origin theories

“It is universally thought that it is impossible to construct a falsifiable theory which is consistent with the thousands of observations indicating an age of billions of years, but which holds that the Universe is only a few thousand years old. I consider such a view to be a slur on the ingenuity of theoretical physicists: we can construct a falsifiable theory with any characteristic you care to name.”

Frank Tipler, *Proceedings of the 1984 Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*, Vol. 2, 900